terials being taken over by NHPC from the French civil construction firm are expected to be used for execution of the balance civil works by making alternative arrangements. The agreement aimed at resolving the continuing impasse beween NHPC and the French Consortium by bringing about a compromise between the two sides on reasonable terms so that work could be resumed at the earliest possible.

The second press report referred to in part (a) of the Question relates to the use of agricultural wastes for production of electricity. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources which is dealing with this source of energy, has informed that a study carried out by the National Productivity Council had estimated that the quantity of bio-mass material comprising of various agricultural wastes, agro-industrial wastes, forest wastes etc. in the said Phaltan Taduka of Maharashtra could be around 320 million tonnes, a significant portion of which could be spared for production of liquid/gaseous fuels. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has set up a Task Force to assess the overall potential of the concept, the technologies available, techno-economic viability of these technologies and promotional measures required for implementation of a large scale country-wide programme so as to decide the future strategies for replication of the concept.

Private Sector Power Projects

1181. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the power projects in the private sector for which MOUs have been signed;

(b) what are the projects which have since started functioning and by when these power projects are likely to be completed;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in the implementation of the remaining power projects; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) As per information received so far from State Electricity Boards/ POWERGRID Corporation/ Energy Management Centre, approximately 121 number of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) have been entered into with private power proponents involving a total capacity of 54579 MW. The details are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 30).

(b) to (d) The projects can start functioning after they receive all necessary clearances, achieve financial closure and complete construction of these projects. Dabhol Phase-I (695 MW) has achieved financial closure and would be completed by November, 1997. Ib Valley TPS (420 MW) and Paguthan CCGT (655 MW) have received all clearances and should achieve financial closure soon. The Government extends all possible assistence to the project proponents in regard to their obtaining all clearances and achieving financial closure.

Delay in the processing of power projects

1182. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the power projects for which funds have been tied up but the processing of the proposals have been delayed;

(b) what are the reasons for deday in the processing of these power projects stating the period by which the processing of each of the proposal has been delayed;

(c) what is the extent of commitment charges paid to the world bank and other financial institutions as a re-

sult of delay in the processing of power projects for which funds have been tied up; and

(d) What is the present position with regard to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) No proposal is pending in the Central Electricity Authority for setting up of hydro and thermal power projects for which funds have been tied up.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Effect of counter guarantees of growth rate

1183. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if all fast-track power projects are cleared with counter guarantees similar to the one given to Enron's Dabhol project it may cost the Union Government an amount of $ 10 Billion a year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even with an optimistic growth rate of 7 per cent per year, this will amount to more than three per cent of the country's gross domestic product:

(c) whether it would disrupt our growth process for years to come and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to avert such a predictment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Linkage of NTPC power projects with Satellite communication system

1184. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some gas-based power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation have been linked with satellite communication system;

(b) if so, the names of such projects indicating the location, State and Territory-wise;

(c) whether such linking with satellite communication system will provide some benefit to the people;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to link some more such projects in future; and

(f) if so, the names of such projects, State and Territory-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The following gas power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been linked with Headquarters at New Delhi through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT):

1. Auraiya District Etawah, Uttar Pradesh.

2. Anta, District Baran, Rajasthan.

3. Kawas, P.O. Aditya Nagar, Gujarat.

4. Jhanor-Gandhar, District Bharuch, Gujarat;

(c) and (d) Links have been established for communication between NTPC projects and its headquarters for more efficient working of the power projects. Facility has been established principally for NTPC's dedicated use for its business requirements. The network is an NTPC dedicated network and there is no connection with Department of Telecommunication's Public Switched Telephone Network.